

Climate Policy Update

October 4, 2023

Good afternoon!

This is Akin's newsletter on climate change policy and regulatory developments, providing information on major climate policy headlines from the past week and forthcoming climate-related events and hearings:

National

- **Biden Administration Offers Fewest Offshore Oil and Gas Leases in History** (*New York Times*)

The Biden-Harris administration announced that “oil and gas companies would be able to drill in just three new areas in the Gulf between 2024 and 2029, the smallest number of lease sales offered since the federal drilling program began decades ago.”

- **White House Defines ‘Zero-Emission’ Buildings, Hoping More Get Built** (*Washington Post*)

The Biden-Harris administration is slated to define what constitutes a “zero-emission” building, “establishing a new national standard in an effort to tackle one of the biggest contributors to climate change in the United States.”

- **SEC Chief Says New California Law Could ‘Change Baseline’ for Coming SEC Climate Rule** (*Reuters*)

Following the passage of a California law requiring companies to disclose climate-related risks, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chair Gary Gensler “highlighted the potential for the California law to support the agency’s efforts to regulate corporate climate disclosures.”

- **Peak Oil is Near, Energy Agency Says, But Climate Change is Far From Solved** (*New York Times*)

An International Energy Agency report detailed that “cleaner energy technologies like electric cars and solar panels are spreading so rapidly that the global use of oil, coal, and natural gas could peak this decade, but countries will still need to pursue more aggressive measures if they want to limit global warming to relatively safe levels.”

State & Local

- **Shapiro Advisors Endorse Emissions Curbs to Fight Climate Change but Don't Embrace RGGI Membership** (*Inside Climate News*)

Gov. Josh Shapiro's (D-PA) working group on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) "endorsed participation in a 'cap-and-invest' process to reduce utilities' greenhouse gas emissions but stopped short of endorsing membership in RGGI."

- **Gas, Oil Companies Argue Against Oregon's Emissions Deadlines During Court of Appeals Hearing** (*Oregon Capital Chronicle*)

Three natural gas companies in Oregon are "challenging the state Climate Protection Program, the state rules requiring gas companies and major industrial facilities to progressively cut greenhouse gas emissions."

International

- **Proposed EU Green Chief Sefcovic: Hopes EU Can Set 90% Target for Emissions Cut by 2040** (*Reuters*)

The proposed European Union (EU) green deal chief Maros Sefcovic expressed that "he hoped the European Union could set a target to cut emissions by at least 90% by 2040."

- **Slow Route to Net Zero Will Worsen Global Climate Crisis, IPCC Chief Warns** (*The Guardian*)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) cautioned that "postponing action and taking a slower route to net zero emissions by 2050 will worsen the climate crisis even if the goal is still reached by that date."

- **International Climate and Energy Summit in Madrid Builds Momentum Behind Efforts to Reach 1.5°C Goal** (*International Energy Agency*)

Senior officials from almost 40 countries and international organizations met for the International Climate and Energy Summit which "sought to build a broad coalition behind efforts to keep the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C within reach."

Check out below for key quotes, federal agency news and a look at the week ahead in congressional hearings and think tank events:

Quotes of the Week

"We have the power to deliver a positive outcome from COP28, but we must act quickly."

— Teresa Ribera, Spanish Vice President and Minister for the Ecological Transition (*International Climate Agency – October 2*)

Congressional Hearings (October 2 - October 6, 2023)

Senate

No relevant Senate hearings.

House of Representatives

No relevant House hearings.

Federal Agency Climate News

Department of Energy

[Biden-Harris Administration Delivers More Than \\$167 Million in Grid Resilience Formula Grants to States and Tribes Across the Country](#) (September 28)

[U.S. Department of Energy Announces \\$38 Million to Deploy Clean Energy Technology in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities](#) (September 28)

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$22 Million to Support Smart Manufacturing at Small- and Medium-sized Facilities Across the Nation](#) (September 27)

White House

[A Proclamation on National Clean Energy Action Month, 2023](#) (September 29)

[Biden-Harris Administration Hosts First-Ever White House Climate Resilience Summit and Releases National Climate Resilience Framework](#) (September 28)

Environmental Protection Agency

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$100 Million in Grants to Support Manufacturers of Cleaner Construction Materials as Part of Investing in America Agenda](#) (September 28)

Department of Interior

[Interior Department Hosts Interagency Meeting on Utilizing Science to Inform Climate Security Policy](#) (September 29)

[Reflecting America's Rapid and Accelerating Shift to Clean Energy, Interior Department Announces Fewest Offshore Oil and Gas Lease Sales in History in Proposed Final Program for 2024–2029](#) (September 29)

Funding and Comment Opportunities

[Climate Pollution Reduction Grants](#)

Environmental Protection Agency

Close Date: April 1, 2024

[Critical Mineral Innovation, Efficiency, and Alternatives](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: November 10, 2023

[Silicon Solar Manufacturing and Dual-Use Photovoltaics Incubator](#)

Department of Energy

Concept Paper: September 27, 2023

Close Date: November 14, 2023

[Additional Clean Hydrogen Programs – Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: TBD

Domestic Manufacturing Conversation Grants

Department of Energy

Close Date: December 7, 2023

D.C. Climate Events

Transatlantic Collaboration on the Energy Transition

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Tuesday, October 3, 10:30 AM ET

Hydrogen as a Long-Haul Trucking Solution

Atlantic Council

Thursday, October 5, 11:00 AM ET

For more information, please contact your regular Akin lawyer or advisor, or:

Kenneth J. Markowitz

Stacey H. Mitchell

Dario J. Frommer

Christopher A.
Treasor

akingump.com

Good News in a Climate Crisis

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Tuesday, October 3, 11:00 AM ET